



Department of State TELEGRAM

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 EUR-00 SS-00 CIAE-00
H-01 NSC-01 NSAE-00 HA-09 L-03 PH-10 PA-01
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R 131441Z MAY 86
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4693
INFO MOSCOW POLITICAL COLLECTIVE
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() RELEASE () DECLASSIFY
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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, UR, AF
SUBJECT: SOVIET COVERAGE OF PDPA GENERAL SECRETARY
NAJIBULLAH

TS authority to:
() CLASSIFY as _____, OADR
() DOWNGRADE TS to () S or () C, OADR

SUMMARY

2. SINCE NAJIBULLAH BECAME PDPA GENERAL SECRETARY, THE SOVIET MEDIA HAVE GIVEN STEADY COVERAGE TO HIS ACTIVITIES. THE MEDIA'S MESSAGE IS THAT THE PDPA IS IN CONTROL, AND THERE IS PROGRESS IN AFGHANISTAN--THE SAME MEDIA MESSAGE WHEN KARMAL WAS IN CHARGE. END SUMMARY

3. SINCE NAJIBULLAH BECAME PDPA GENERAL SECRETARY, SOVIET CENTRAL NEWSPAPERS HAVE PUBLISHED A STEADY STREAM OF ARTICLES ON HIS ACTIVITIES,
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INCLUDING HIS SPEECH TO THE PDPA'S 18TH PLENUM.

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TASS DISPATCHES ON MAY 8 AND MAY 11 REPORTED HIS MEETINGS WITH OVER FOUR HUNDRED REPRESENTATIVES OF VARIOUS TRIBES, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF ISLAM, THE HIGH COUNCIL OF THE ULEHAS AND CLERGY, AND HAZARA CLERGY AND INTELLIGENTSIA. ACCORDING TO THE TASS REPORTS, THESE GROUPS ENDORSED THE PDPA'S INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL POLICIES.

4. NAJIBULLAH'S LINE, AS PLAYED BY THE SOVIET PRESS, HAS BEEN RELATIVELY OPTIMISTIC. ACCORDING TO TASS, NAJIBULLAH IS CLAIMING PROGRESS, E.G.:

--THAT NATIONAL INCOME NOW EXCEEDS PRE-REVOLUTION LEVELS;

--THE DRA'S INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITY IS GROWING;

--THE NUMBER OF COMMUNIST PARTY MEMBERS IS INCREASING, AND

--THE MILITARY IS MEETING THE MUJAHIDEEN CHALLENGES, ALTHOUGH IT MUST WORK MORE EFFECTIVELY.

5. JUDGING FROM THE SOVIET PRESS REPORTS, NAJIBULLAH HAS NOT CHANGED THE PDPA'S BASIC POLICIES. HE HAS REAFFIRMED THE PDPA'S COMMITMENT TO THE APRIL REVOLUTION AND THE "CARDINAL TRANSFORMATION" OF AFGHAN SOCIETY; TO ITS DEMAND FOR AN END TO OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE; AND TO THE NON-RENEWAL
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OF SUCH INTERFERENCE AS THE BASIS FOR A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT.

6. COMMENT

WE SEE LITTLE NEW IN NAJIBULLAH'S APPROACH. THUS, ALTHOUGH KARNAL HAS BEEN MOVED TO THE SIDELINES, THE PDPA LINE--AS REPRESENTED BY THE SOVIET PRESS--REMAINS THE SAME.

7. KABUL - MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.
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